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National Athletics Archive: Resource Guide

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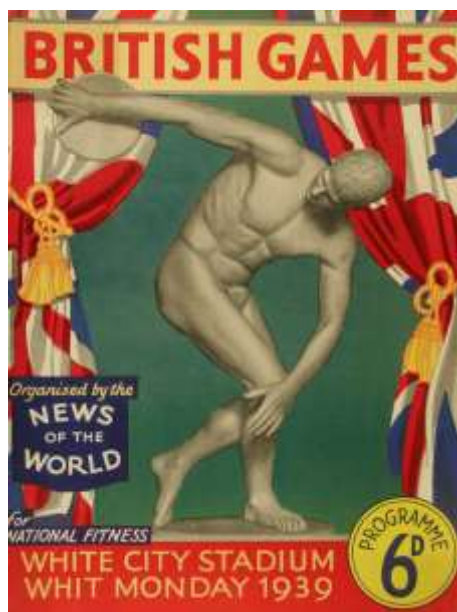
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NATIONAL ATHLETICS ARCHIVE: RESOURCE GUIDE

This guide provides an overview of the content of the National Athletics Archive held at the Cadbury Research Library, University of Birmingham. The collection comprises a large quantity of archival materials primarily relating to the history and development of athletics in the United Kingdom from the late 19th to early 21st centuries. The National Athletics Archive is divided into three broad categories:

- personal papers of athletes and athletics commentators
- papers of athletics organisations
- artificial papers

We welcome enquiries from potential researchers at any level and are very pleased to offer advice and assistance in using our archives in one-to-one or small group sessions by appointment.



Overview

The National Athletics Archive includes records of national organisations administering athletics such as the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA), the Sports Council and the English Cross-Country Union (ECCU). There are also records relating to regional organisations including papers of the Midland Counties Amateur Athletic Association (MCAAA) and the Southern Counties Amateur Athletic Association (SCAAA) and the Southern Counties Cross-Country Association (SCCCA).

In addition to organisational collections, the archive includes various discrete collections of individual athletes and athletics commentators. These include the papers of Arthur Newton, Arthur Winter, Dennis Cullum, George Adam, Harold Abrahams, Howard Payne, Joe Binks, John Jewell, Joe Percy, Mel Watman, Phil Thomas and Squire Yarrow.

An extensive artificial collection of ephemera includes a sequence of almost 4,000 programmes, primarily relating to UK athletics meetings; typescript results; compiled statistics; material relating to individual local clubs and organisations; papers relating to major athletics championships including the Olympic Games; and oral history recordings which feature interviews with numerous athletes and athletics commentators.

There is a small miscellaneous section comprising letters, the majority of which concern the publication of athletics books, magazines and articles. The collection includes examples of personal correspondence such as manuscript letters from Roger Bannister and Harold Abrahams, sent to various recipients. There are a small number of printed annuals and publications as well as an extensive sequence of photographs, newspaper cuttings, artefacts and ephemera.

Taken as a whole, these papers are a valuable resource to athletics historians. They are of potential use for exploring gender studies, local history, the development of advertising as well as exposing wider issues relating to health, wellbeing, sport and recreation throughout the 20th century.



Provenance of the collection

The National Centre for Athletics Literature (NCAL), originally titled The National Documentation Centre, was first established on the recommendation of the Sports Council, under the terms of a grant from the Department of Education and Science. It was originally housed at the Queen's University of Belfast in June 1969. In August 1973 the Centre relocated to Birmingham following a meeting between Dr Kenneth Humphreys, the then University Librarian, and representatives of the National Union of Track Statisticians (NUTS).

In 1993, NCAL ceased to have its own dedicated specialist librarian and in the early 2000s, the Cadbury Research Library (Special Collections) took over active management for the archive collections, the rare published and printed materials, the ephemera collections and the sound recordings. This archival material is now fully catalogued and available via CalmView: www.calmview.bham.ac.uk

Personal papers of athletes and athletics commentators

The National Athletics Archive includes papers relating to a number of 20th century athletes, journalists and commentators. These papers are fully catalogued and searchable via www.calmview.bham.ac.uk:

Abrahams, Harold Maurice (1899-1978), athlete, administrator, commentator and journalist: papers, 1902-1989. Ref: ATH/HA

Adam, George Mair (1898-1989), athlete, coach and athletics administrator: papers, 1909-1989. Ref: ATH/GA

Binks, Joseph (Joe) (1874-1966), athlete and athletics commentator: papers, [1920s-1950s]. Ref: ATH/JB

Cardew, Martin H. (b 1927), athlete: papers, 1964-1988. Ref: ATH/MHC

Cullum, Dennis Noel Johnson (1913-1985), athlete and coach: papers, [1930s]-1985. Ref: ATH/DC

Ives, Bert (1890-1975), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, [1920s-1970s]. Ref: ATH/BI

Jewell, John Christopher (1912-2001), athlete and athletics commentator: papers, 1897-2002. Ref: ATH/JJ

Lloyd-Edgley, Ralph: scrapbook, [c 1924]-[c 1931]. Ref: ATH/RLE

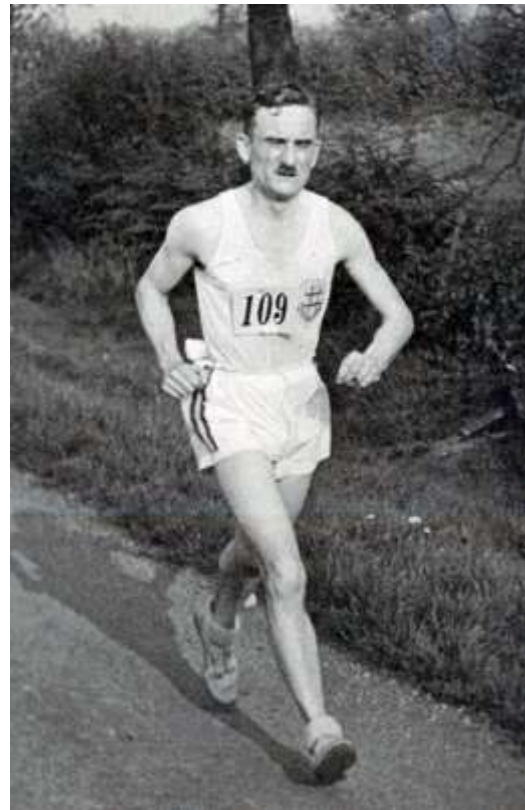
MacLean, Duncan (1884-1980), athlete and coach: papers, 1948-1977. Ref: ATH/DM

Monk, Walter Harry (Wal) (1896-after 1965), athlete: papers, 1918-1961. Ref: ATH/WHM



Arthur Newton

Percy, Joe W. (1912-2001), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, 1910-1997. Ref: ATH/JWP



John Jewell

Morgan, Wilf (b 1935), athlete and athletics historian: papers, 1937-2012. Ref: ATH/WM

Newton, Arthur Francis Hamilton (1883-1959), athlete: papers, [c 1904]-[1990s]. Ref: ATH/AN

Payne, Howard (1931-1992), athlete: papers, 1899-[c 1975]. Ref: ATH/HP

Perry, George (b 1903), athlete: papers, [1920s]-1956. Ref: ATH/GP

Powell, Edgar Robert Leslie (Peter), (fl 1920s-70s), athlete: papers, 1813-1988. Ref: ATH/ERLP

Richards, Wilf (b 1906), athlete and journalist: papers, 1924-[mid 20th century]. Ref: ATH/WR

Roberts, Dave (fl 1930s-1990s), athlete and statistician: papers, [1930s]-1991. Ref: ATH/DR

Simpson, Colin J. (1929-2011), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, 1945-1990. Ref: ATH/CS

Tatham, Wilfrid George (Gus) (1898-1978), athlete: papers, 1908-1960. Ref: ATH/WGT



Gus Tatham

Thomas, Dr Philip, athletics administrator and coach: papers, [c 1900]-[late 20th century]. Ref: ATH/PT

Vargas, Charles Climaco (1905-1975), athlete: papers, 1921-31. Ref: ATH/CCV

Ward, Leonard H., athletics coach: papers, [mid-20th century]. Ref: ATH/LW

Watman, Melvyn Francis (Mel) (b 1938), athletics journalist and statistician: papers, 1980-1993. Ref: ATH/MW

Wight, Robert M., athletics administrator: papers, [mid-20th century]. Ref: ATH/RW

Winter, Arthur E. H. (d 1990), athlete and athletics commentator: papers, [early 20th century]-1983. Ref: ATH/AW

Yarrow, Squire Stevens (1905-1984), athlete and athletics administrator: papers, 1938-1984. Ref: ATH/SY

Papers of athletics organisations

The National Athletics Archive includes papers relating to the following organisations:

Amateur Athletic Association: papers, 1880-1992. Ref: ATH/AAA

English Cross-Country Union: papers, 1911-1989. Ref: ATH/ECCU

Midland Counties Amateur Athletics Association: papers, 1900-1991. Ref: ATH/MCAAA

Midland Counties Cross Country Association: papers, 1898-1985. Ref: ATH/MCCCA

Midland Counties Women's Amateur Athletic Association: papers, 1949-[1980s]. Ref: ATH/MCWAAA

Northern Counties Women's Amateur Athletic Association: papers, 1933-1989. Ref: ATH/NCWAAA

Northern Cross-Country Association: papers, 1906-1983. Ref: ATH/NCCA

Northern Women's Track and Field League: papers, 1982-1983. Ref: ATH/NWTFL

Southern Counties Amateur Athletic Association: papers, 1958-1983. Ref: ATH/SCAAA

Southern Counties Cross-Country Association: papers, 1911-1990. Ref: ATH/SCCCA

The Sports Council: papers, [1940s]-2001. Ref: ATH/SC

Women's Amateur Athletic Association: papers, 1932-1989. Ref: ATH/WAAA

Miscellaneous papers relating to individual athletics clubs and organisations

In addition to the 'official' organisational records listed above, the National Athletics Archive also includes an 'unofficial' sequence of papers relating to organisations and local athletics clubs:

British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB), 1964-1989. Incomplete sequence of administrative records, 1964-1987; publications, 1971-1986. Ref: ATH/Z/5/8a

Birchfield Harriers, 1905-1992. Incomplete sequence of administrative records, 1950-1983; correspondence, 1948-1978; publications, including early issues of 'The Stagbearer'; newspaper cuttings and ephemera. Ref: ATH/Z/5/12

International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), 1912-1997. Administrative papers, publications, statistics, fixture lists and miscellaneous items. Ref: ATH/Z/5/77

National Union of Track Statisticians, 1959-2010. An extensive sequence of publications and handbooks and a small number of administrative papers. Ref: ATH/Z/5/104

Pole Vaulters Association, 1959-1990. Papers, primarily covering the 1960s, including some relating to the production of 'Think High' magazine. Ref: ATH/Z/5/113

Polytechnic Harriers, 1932-1990. Papers primarily relating to the Polytechnic Harriers marathon race during the mid-20th century. There are also some club histories and a sequence of photographs. Ref: ATH/Z/5/114

Small Heath Harriers, [c 1900]-1983. Minutes, newsletters, correspondence and photographs. Ref: ATH/Z/5/137

South London Harriers, [mid-20th century]-1999. Copies of 'The South London Harriers Gazette' and various fixture lists. Ref: ATH/Z/5/140

Artificial papers

The National Athletics Archive has received additional material over many years. These additions comprise individual athletics programmes, photographs, newspaper cuttings and other items of ephemera. These materials have been arranged, and catalogued, as an 'artificial' sequence of papers. They are fully searchable via www.calmview.bham.ac.uk



Athletics programmes. Ref: ATH/Z/1

A large sequence of almost 4,000 athletics and sports competition programmes, acquired from a wide variety of different sources, with coverage dating from the late 19th century to the early 21st century, 1881-2006

Results. Ref: ATH/Z/2

Results, primarily typescript copies, sorted chronologically, sub-divided by provenance, [c1900-1990s]

Statistics. Ref: ATH/Z/3

Extensive sequence of statistics organised into categories: international statistics; statistics arranged by country; and miscellaneous statistics, 1926-[1990s]

Conversion and scoring tables. Ref: ATH/Z/4

Metric conversion tables and scoring tables, primarily used during the mid-20th century, 1934-1984

Papers relating to individual athletics clubs and organisations. Ref: ATH/Z/5

Extensive sequence of papers relating to athletics organisations and local clubs. Papers primarily relate to English organisations, but there are some records of American clubs as well as some international athletics associations, 1879-2011

Papers relating to major athletics championships. Ref: ATH/Z/6

Papers relating to the Olympic Games; British Empire and Commonwealth Games; European Championships; European Veterans Athletics Championships; World Championships; and various other major championships, 1934-2005

Research papers. Ref: ATH/Z/7

Papers comprising manuscript notes, photocopied articles and typescript extracts relating to specific athletes or subjects, compiled by interested researchers. 1864-[late 20th century]

Oral histories and other recordings. Ref: ATH/Z/8

Extensive sequence of oral histories and other miscellaneous audio recordings relating to 20th century athletes and athletics. The majority of recordings were digitised during 2015-2016 and CD listening copies are available, [late 20th century]-2016

Correspondence. Ref: ATH/Z/9

Artificial collection of letters relating to athletics. Majority of letters concern the publication of athletics books, magazines and articles, 1925-1992

Annuals and miscellaneous publications. Ref: ATH/Z/10

Small collection of athletics annuals and miscellaneous publications arranged by date of publication, [early 20th century]-1989

Photographs, cuttings, artefacts and ephemera. Ref: ATH/Z/11

Photograph albums and loose images; newspaper issues and cuttings; medals, badges and trophies; materials and notes relating to athletics' exhibitions; and other ephemera, [19th-20th centuries]